

DECLASSIFIED

3D MARDIV S&C FILE  
BT# 529668

HEADQUARTERS BATTALION  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3/RHF/ap  
5750  
034A25368  
9 Sept 1968

~~DECLASSIFIED~~  
CONFIDENTIAL

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A03D)  
Via: (1) Commanding General, 3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
(2) Commanding General, III MAF  
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 August to 31 August 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A  
(b) EMFPacO 5750.8

Encl: ✓(1) Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) is submitted.

  
G. F. KURTH

Hq 3d MARDIV

CMD CHRON

AUG 1968

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
DECLASSIFIED

Copy No. 1 of 8 Copies

Page 1 of Page 12

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS BATTALION  
3d Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, 96602

**DECLASSIFIED**

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1 August To 31 August 1968

INDEX

- PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

**DECLASSIFIED**

Page 2 of Page 42

DECLASSIFIED

PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATAC O N F I D E N T I A L1. DESIGNATIONCOMMANDER

Headquarters Battalion

Lt Col E. A. DEPTULA  
( 1 - 14 Aug )  
Maj G. F. KURTH  
(15 - 31 Aug )SUBORDINATE UNITS

Headquarters Company

Capt D. L. CHILCOPE

Communications Company

Maj F. J. REISINGER

Military Police Company

Maj V. E. FERNSTAHL

Service Company

Capt J. GEISKE  
(1 - 8 Aug)  
Capt R. G. SNYDER  
(9 - 31 Aug)2. LOCATION

1 - 31 Aug 1968 Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam, (less Communications Company, Dong Ha RVN)

3. STAFF OFFICERS

Executive Officer

Maj G. F. KURTH  
(1 - 14 Aug)

S - 1/Adjutant

1stLt J. V. FISHER Jr.

Assistant Adjutant

CWO R. T. POWELL Jr.

Operations/Logistics Officer

Capt R. H. FLAGLER

Motor Transport Officer

1stLt A. E. DOSS Jr.

Supply Officer

2ndLt J. P. SHERMER Jr.

Surgeon

Lt M. W. K. ROTHMUND (USNR)

Chaplain

Cndr H. E. PHILLIPS  
(1 Aug)  
Cndr M. J. DOERMANN  
(2 - 31 AUG)C O N F I D E N T I A L

C O N F I D E N T I A L

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>ENL</u>
252	1053	9	28

C O N F I D E N T I A L

## PART II

## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

**DECLASSIFIED**  
CONFIDENTIAL

1. Headquarters Battalion continued to have elements positioned throughout the 3d Marine Division area of operation during this period. The locations of major elements are as follows.

Quang Tri	Headquarters Company (-)
	Service Company (-)
	Military Police Company (-)
Dong Ha	Communications Company (-)

2. UNIT ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

On 2 August a cultural show was held at Headquarters Battalion enlisted Mess by a Vietnamese cultural group which included native dancing and singing and was attended by approximately 75 - 100 Marines from the Command.

"E" and "G" Companies of the 2nd Battalion 26th Marines utilized Operation SURE's facilities during the month. They were provided with hot food, clean clothing, shower facilities and afforded the opportunity to relax and utilize Headquarters Battalion's club facilities on the 3d of August.

"B" and "G" Companies of the 3d Recon Battalion relieved "E" Company 2nd Battalion 26th Marines of the security for the Quang Tri Combat Base ASP on 3 August. The Recon Companies were supported by their parent unit.

Escort and traffic control duties were assumed by Military Police Company for the Commandant of the Marine Corps' tour of Dong Ha Combat Base and Quang Tri Combat Base. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, accompanied by the Commanding General of the 3d Marine Division, presented one Bronze Star and three Purple Heart Medals to members of Headquarters Battalion. The awards ceremony was held on the 7th of August at Quang Tri Combat Base.

On 8 August musical entertainment was provided at the Quang Tri City hospital by the Rock and Roll band from the 3d Marine Division Band.

A change of Command ceremony was held at Headquarters Battalion, Quang Tri Combat Base. The outgoing Commanding Officer was LtCol E. A. DEPTULA, while the new Commanding Officer was Major G. F. KURTH. Upon assuming the Command of Headquarters Battalion, Major KURTH welcomed the first USO show held this far north in the I Corps area. The show was held at the Battalion's enlisted Mess. The entertainment was greatly appreciated by the Battalion and was enjoyed by all who attended.

From the 18th thru the 24th of August a Commanding General's technical/administrative inspection was held for Headquarters Battalion.

CONFIDENTIAL **DECLASSIFIED**

**DECLASSIFIED**C O N F I D E N T I A L

On the 23rd and 24th of August "E" and "H" Companies of the 2nd Battalion 1st Marines were hosted by Headquarters Battalion as they utilized Operation SURE's billeting and shower facilities to help in their preparation for departure to the Denang area.

During an awards ceremony held on 27 August, General Davis presented to members of Headquarters Battalion, three Bronze Stars, one Navy Commendation and eleven Purple Heart awards. The ceremony was held at the Headquarters Battalion CP area, Quang Tri Combat Base.

On the 28th of August "D" Company 1st Battalion 3d Marines came under the operational control of Headquarters Battalion. Their mission was to man fire base Pedro (247486 Sheet No. 6442 III 1:50,000). Necessary liaison and coordination was immediately initiated by the Headquarters Battalion S-4 Officer.

On 30 August an ambush of 12 men from "D" Company 1st Battalion 3d Marines was set in at 2030 on the north side of the perimeter at Fire Base Pedro. At about 2330 approximately 6 NVA/VC crossed from west to east into the ambush site. The ambush was triggered, and two M16A1 rifles and one M60 machinegun malfunctioned. One handgrenade was thrown. The enemy returned two grenades and fired a few rounds of small arms. The ambush was withdrawn and the ambush area was covered by 81 mm mortar fire. A search of the area conducted the next morning revealed only blood trails. No friendly casualties were sustained.

Headquarters Battalion was allotted two hundred and fifty-two Sea Huts to be used for offices and living quarters. The locations were planned and the huts were distributed to the companies according to their respective needs. Construction will begin in early September.

Several improvements of the 3d Marine Division's rear Command Post were initiated during the month of August. The parking lot was improved, with parking spaces designated. The main generators were enclosed behind solid partitions and overheading provided.

The ten-man military police detachment at Ca Lu has been reduced to five men. An additional post was established at the junction of highway # 1 and ASF road and another sentry was assigned to the south gate.

Joint patrols were initiated with Army M.P.'s to include patrolling of Quang Tri Combat Base and Highway # 1 between Quang Tri and Dong Ha Combat Base. A joint patrol between Dong Ha and Cam Lo was also established. A Quan Canh began accompanying the highway patrol to aid in control of ARVN vehicles on highway # 1 and the base, and one M.P. has been assigned to ride with the Division Roadmaster at Quang Tri Combat Base to increase law enforcement activity.

Inescopes were employed to a limited degree resulting in twenty-two citations. Six hundred and thirty-three traffic citations were issued during the month. Three hundred and eighty-nine were moving violations. One hundred and thirty-one vehicles were impounded. Seventy-five military police reports were initiated during the month. Twelve vehicular accidents, resulting in two deaths and four injuries and consolidated property damages of \$4,335.00, were investigated.

C O **DECLASSIFIED** L

**DECLASSIFIED**  
CONFIDENTIAL

Liaison was made with the US Army in regards to prisoner chasing. During the month of August, fifty-one persons were detained and processed as follows.

Prisoners of war	17
Civil defendants	2
Innocent civilians	19
Returnees	2
Unclassified	11

Ten US personnel were detained pending legal proceedings.

**DECLASSIFIED**  
CONFIDENTIAL

PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

C O **DECLASSIFIED** L

a. Combat Mission Assigned

(1) Maintain two vital area reaction companies for employment as required.

(2) Perform Military Police functions as required throughout the 3d Marine Division area of Operation.

(3) Maintain Sector "H" of the perimeter defense of Quang Tri Combat Base.

(4) Defend Fire Support Base Pedro.

b. Significant Operations Conducted

Continued Operation SURE in accordance with Division Order 10120.2

c. Casualties Inflicted on the enemy. None

d. Casualties Sustained.

KIA		WIA		Injury, Non-battle		Death, Non-battle		MIA	
<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>Enl</u>
0	1	1	6	0	4	0	0	0	0

e. New Techniques Employed. None

f. Command Relation. The Battalion was under Operational and administrative control of 3d Marine Division during August.

g. Equipment. Headquarters Battalion received and stored 400 general purpose tents for the Division's monsoon requirements. Of these 400 general purpose tents, 350 were stored at the Dong Ha combat base for eventual use as requirements occur.

h. Logistics. Companies Opcon to Headquarters Battalion continue to be provided with Class I, III, IV, and V support. Task force Hotel is continually being supported by Officers and men and logistic material and equipment from Headquarters Battalion.

C O N **DECLASSIFIED**

**DECLASSIFIED**  
CONFIDENTIAL

i. Civic Action. Local national civilians continue to be employed by Headquarters Battalion. They continue to build protective sandbag walls, police the Battalion area and make trash runs under the supervision of Battalion personnel. In addition, three local national civilians (female) have been employed in the Headquarters Battalion Post Exchange.

j. Administration. During the month of August the following awards were presented: on 7 August, one Bronze Star and three Purple Heart Medals; and on 27 August, Three Bronze Stars, one Navy Commendation, and eleven Purple Heart Medals. From the 18th thru the 24th of August a Technical/Administrative inspection was conducted.

k. Personnel.

1. 211 Personnel were joined and 329 personnel were dropped from this Battalion during this reporting period.

2. Casualties

(a) KIA Enlisted - Pvt Gerard F. BERGIN 2378059/3421 USMC ServCo, 1730 26 Aug 1968 vicinity of Dong Ha Combat Base. Rec'd shrapnel wounds in abdomen and right arm from incoming artillery while in a defensive position. Died of wounds 0245 27 Aug 1968 at 3d MedBn, Quang Tri Combat Base.

(b) WIA Officer - First Lieutenant Fred TOMASELLO Jr. 095786/0302 USMC HqCo 0930 4 Aug 1968 vicinity of DMZ. Rec'd gun shot wound in right leg from enemy forces while flying AO mission. Treated at 3d MedBn and returned to duty.

(c) WIA Enlisted - Lance Corporal James Thomas ALLEN 2372419/3421 USMC ServCo 1730 26 Aug 1968 vicinity of Dong Ha Combat Base Rec'd shrapnel wounds in right arm and face from incoming artillery while in a defensive position. Treated at 3d MedBn and returned to duty.

(d) WIA Enlisted - Private First Class Donald R. MASTERS 2410508/3421 USMC ServCo 1730 26 Aug 1968 vicinity of Dong Ha Combat Base. Rec'd shrapnel wounds in left arm and face from incoming artillery while in a defensive position. Treated at 3d MedBn and returned to duty.

(e) WIA Enlisted - Private First Class Brian J. MEEGAN 2361892/3421 USMC ServCo 1730 26 Aug 1968 Rec'd shrapnel wounds in both arms and face vicinity of Dong Ha Combat Base while in a defensive position. Treated at 3d MedBn and further transferred to USNH USS Sanctuary on 27 Aug 1968.

CONFIDENTIAL

**DECLASSIFIED**

**DECLASSIFIED**C O N F I D E N T I A L

(f) WIA Enlisted - Staff Sergeant Roger K. SPENCER 1878113/  
3421 USMC 1730 26 Aug 1968 vicinity of Dong Ha Combat Base. Rec'd shrapnel  
wounds in right rear of head from enemy artillery while in a defensive  
position. Treated at 3d MedBn and returned to duty.

(g) WIA Enlisted - Lance Corporal Michael A. CASTILLO 2390960/  
3421 USMC ServCo vicinity of Dong Ha Combat Base 1730 26 Aug 1968. Rec'd  
shrapnel wounds in left arm from incoming artillery while in a defensive  
position. Treated at 3d MedBn and returned to duty.

(h) WIA Enlisted - Corporal Elias ESTAVILLO Jr. 2214007/3421  
USMC ServCo 1730 26 Aug 1968 vicinity of Dong Ha Combat Base. Rec'd shrapnel  
wound in right upper arm from enemy artillery while in a defensive position.  
Treated at 3d MedBn and further transferred to USNH USS Sanctuary on 28  
Aug 1968.

(i) Enlisted Injury Non-Battle Gunnery Sergeant Louis Carol  
CROCIEMI Jr, 1093803 USMC HqCo 2300 23 Aug 1968 vicinity of Dong Ha Combat  
Base. Rec'd wound in head, chest and left thigh from hand grenade thrown  
in SNCO club, Dong Ha. Treated at 3d MedBn and transferred to USNH USS  
Sanctuary. Non-hostile

(j) Enlisted Injury Non-Battle Master Sergeant Roger M. BREDAHL  
656973 USMC HqBn 2300 23 Aug 1968 vicinity of Dong Ha Combat Base Rec'd  
shrapnel wounds in upper trunk and extremities from hand grenade thrown in  
SNCO club, Dong Ha Combat Base. Treated at 3d MedBn and returned to duty.  
Non-hostile

(k) Enlisted Injury Non-Battle Gunnery Sergeant Peter F.  
JILBERT 1223703 USMC HqCo 2300 23 Aug 1968 Rec'd shrapnel wounds in left  
shoulder and left foot from hand grenade thrown in SNCO club at Dong Ha  
Combat Base. Treated at 3d MedBn and returned to duty. Non-hostile

(l) Enlisted Injury Non-Battle Staff Sergeant Floyd H. DALTON  
1872038 USMC HqCo 2300 23 Aug 1968 vicinity of Dong Ha Combat Base. Rec'd  
shrapnel wounds in back from hand grenade thrown in SNCO club at Dong Ha.  
Treated at 3d MedBn. Non-hostile

1. Intelligence. Nothing Significant.

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ **DECLASSIFIED**

**DECLASSIFIED**  
C O N F I D E N T I A L

m. Communications

1. Dial telephone service was extended to 9th Motor Transport Battalion, 11th Engineer Battalion, 12th Marines, 108th Artillery Group, (USA) and the 1st Battalion 44th Artillery (USA). Additional cable installation at Dong Ha Combat Base provided improved wire communications.

2. Radio Relay links were established to tie the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry (Mech) into the Division system.

3. Division Tactical Net 3 was activated to provide additional tactical radio capabilities.

4. 1st AmFrac Battalion was provided with a teletype circuit to the Division Communication Center.

n. Weather. Nothing Significant.

o. Fire Support. Nothing Significant.

p. Air Support. Nothing Significant.

q. Activation/Deactivation/Redesignation. None

r. Personnel Service.

(1) Postal. Approximately 13,500 pounds of mail was processed during the period of this report.

(2) Medical. Nothing Significant. 903 routine shots were administered during the month of August.

(3) Special Services. An Enlisted Recreation Council was formed in which each company is represented by chosen members of the respective companies to voice the desires of the enlisted body.

(4) Chaplain. Worship services conducted by the Chaplain during the month of August were held at Headquarters Battalion, 3d Tank Battalion, 3d Battalion 12th Marines, CAP 4-2-1, 3d Marine Division CP, 11th Engineers, and at LZ Stud. The Invocation and Benediction for the SNCO school graduation was conducted by the Battalion Chaplain, Thirty-nine counselling cases were handled by the Chaplain, two of which were for religious instructions. The Chaplain lectured forty men in training classes held on Vietnamese religion. One memorial service was conducted for CAP 4-2-1. Three Red cross messages were delivered by the Chaplain.

**DECLASSIFIED**  
C O N F I D E N T I A L

DECLASSIFIED

PART IV  
CHRONOLOGY OF SUBORDINATE UNITS  
AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

CONFIDENTIAL

1. None

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 12 of Page 12

DECLASSIFIED